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SPY

LONDON (UPI) -- ARMY SECURITY OFFICERS ARRESTED A SOLDIER AT A KEY MILITARY BASE, RAISING FEARS OF A NEW SECURITY BREACH IN BRITAIN'S INTELLIGENCE NETWORK THAT REPORTEDLY ALLOWED FALKLANDS WAR SECRETS TO BE PASSED TO ARGENTINA.

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE SAID SUNDAY A NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN THE INTELLIGENCE CORPS HAD BEEN DETAINED AT ALDERSHOT, ONE OF BRITAIN'S LARGEST ARMY BASES, AND CHARGED WITH 'IMPROPERLY CARRYING OUT HIS DUTIES.'

BUT IT WOULD NOT CONFIRM NEWS REPORTS THE UNIDENTIFIED DETAINEE WAS THOUGHT TO HAVE VISITED THE SOVIET EMBASSY 'POSSIBLY ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS' AND HAD BEEN QUESTIONED FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS BY ARMY CHIEFS AND SECURITY SERVICES.

THE NEWS BROKE AS SECURITY CHIEFS BRACED THEMSELVES FOR FURTHER EMBARRASSMENT IN TWO MORE SPY CASES DUE TO COME TO COURT MONDAY.

RHONA RITCHIE, 29, A FORMER FIRST SECRETARY AT THE BRITISH EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV WAS APPEARING AT THE OLD BAILEY COURT IN LONDON CHARGED WITH PASSING SECRETS TO A FOREIGN POWER.

IN AN UNRELATED CASE, PROF. HUGH HAMBLETON, A CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND FORMER INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, IS DUE TO APPEAR AT THE SAME COURT ON A SIMILAR CHARGE OF PASSING INFORMATION TO A FOREIGN POWER.

THREE WEEKS AGO, RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE SPECIALIST GEOFFREY PRIME, WHO WORKED AT THE GOVERNMENT'S TOP-SECRET CHELTENHAM COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, WAS JAILED FOR 38 YEARS ON CHARGES OF SPYING FOR MOSCOW OVER 14 YEARS AND INDECENCY.

DESPITE SEVERAL SECURITY CHECKS, PRIME'S ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES WENT UNDETECTED UNTIL POLICE PICKED HIM UP FOR SEXUAL ATTACKS ON YOUNG GIRLS.

THE DEFENSE SPOKESMAN SAID OF THE SOLDIER'S ARREST: "THE MAN HAS BEEN CHARGED UNDER SECTION 69 OF THE ARMY ACT WHICH SPECIFICALLY REFERS TO CONDUCT PREJUDICIAL TO GOOD ORDER AND MILITARY DISCIPLINE."

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